

Dear Friends,

It is an honor and pleasure to represent the 39th District!

With the close of the 2007 legislative session, I would like to provide you with a brief summary of some of the important work we did. Although the 2007 legislative session was a productive one, I am still looking forward to continuing my work on two persistent problems: affordable health care coverage and our ever-rising electric utility rates. We devoted considerable time and attention to both issues this session, and I anticipate doing the same when we return in February.

If you have questions on this information or any suggestions for future legislation, please contact me. Your voice helps me to be a strong advocate for our district and for Southeastern Connecticut.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you. Enjoy the fall /winter season!

*Ernie*

## State money secured for New London

Pilot: State Owned Property: .....	\$426,600
Pilot: Colleges & Hospitals:.....	\$6,131,036
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund: .....	\$3,053,805
Town Aid Road:.....	\$192,327
Local Capital Improvement Program:.....	\$281,508
Public School Transportation:.....	\$459,860
Non-Public School Transportation: .....	\$53,476
Adult Education: .....	\$998,845
Education Cost Sharing: .....	\$21,957,092

**Total Money for New London:  
\$ 33,554,549**

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*I Wish You A  
Happy Holiday  
&  
A Safe New Year!*

### State Representative Ernest Hewett

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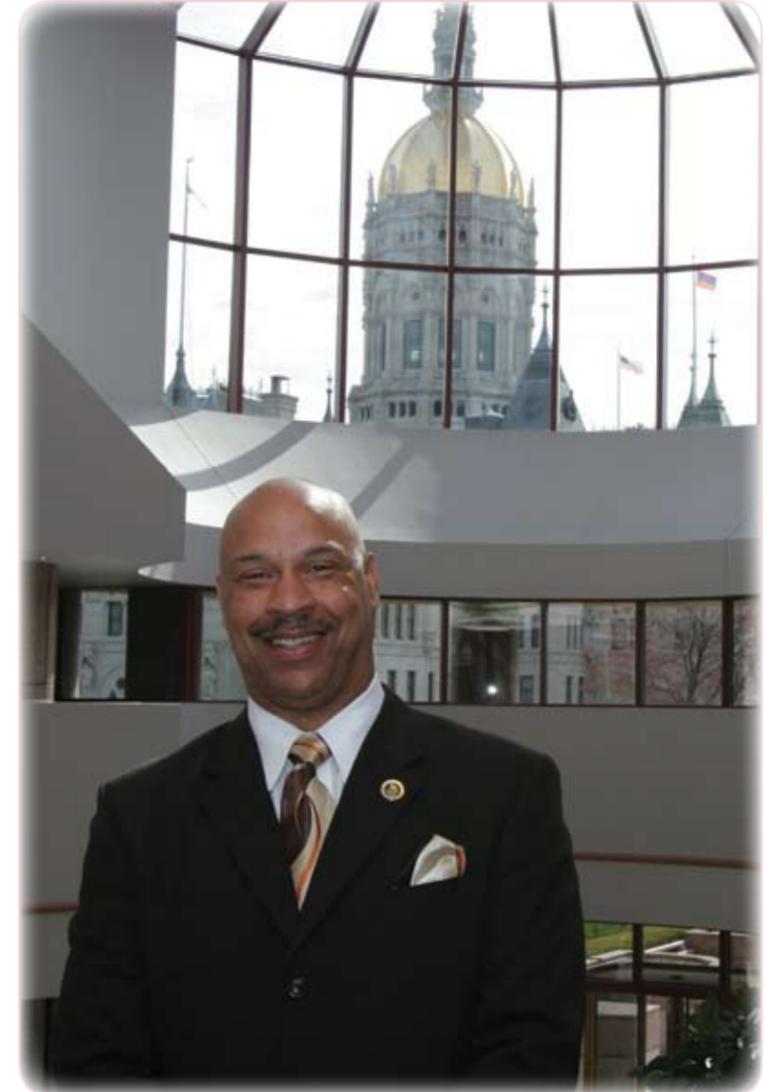
**In the District:**  
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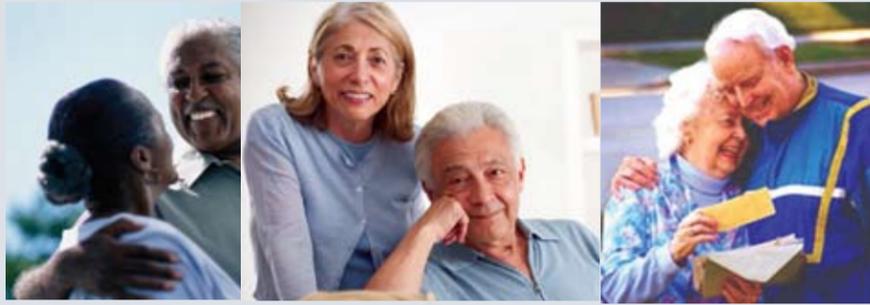
# Proudly Serving The 39TH District



## State Representative Ernest Hewett

New London

## Senior News



- **SENIOR DRIVER DISCOUNT**
  - Insurance discount for drivers over 60 who complete an approved accident-prevention course (PA 07-5)
- **HOMECARE OPTION PROGRAM**
  - Enables more seniors to stay at home by making tax-exempt accounts available for homecare savings, and allows seniors to hire their own personal care assistant rather than having to go through an agency (PA 07-130)
- **HOSPICE CARE**
  - Ensures a higher quality of care by requiring that hospice programs provide 24 hour services and be licensed through the Department of Public Health and certified by Medicare (PA 07-23)
- **NURSING HOMES - PROTECTING OUR SENIORS**
  - Prevents nursing homes from closing or reducing the number of beds available until a public hearing has been held and the request approved by DSS (PA 07-209)

## Children

### SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT URBAN VIOLENCE REDUCTION

Building on legislation passed last year, House Democrats increased funding to the Summer Youth Employment Program, adding an additional \$1 million, for a total of \$5 million. This money will provide summer employment for over 4,000 children throughout the state.

House Democrats also established a program to reduce urban violence by providing competitive grants to cities and towns for anti-violence programs and services targeted at urban youth between the ages of 12 and 18. (PA 07-4)



## Insurance

### NO MANDATES FOR STORM SHUTTERS

Coastal homeowners scored a victory this year! As of July 1, 2007, insurers are prohibited from refusing to issue or renew homeowner's insurance policies solely because expensive hurricane shutters were not installed. In addition, insurers will be required to offer sound premium discounts to homeowners who install permanent storm shutters or impact resistant glass to mitigate loss from hurricanes and other severe storms.

Last summer, the Insurance Department allowed an insurer to deny coverage to policyholders living within  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile of Long Island Sound unless homeowners installed costly shutters, which can cost tens of thousands of dollars. Widespread opposition to the policy resulted in a reversal of the Insurance Commissioner's approval. This new law offers increased protections for consumers.

The Insurance Commissioner was also authorized to establish a Coastal Market Assistance Program (CMAP) to help coastal-area residents obtain homeowners insurance. (PA 07-77)

## Energy Conservation Initiatives

### ENERGY ASSISTANCE:

- Lengthens the winter moratorium to prohibit electric companies from terminating service to hardship customers
- Expands Operation Fuel funding operations (a non-profit energy assistance organization)
- Funds assistance for low-income customers to pay their electric arrearages
- Broadens requirements for the Department of Social Services to buy fuel at discounted prices for energy assistance recipients
- Maintains a special rate for all-electric homes

## Judiciary

### JAMES C. TILLMAN AND THE COMPENSATION OF PERSONS WRONGFULLY CONVICTED AND INCARCERATED

For his wrongful conviction and 18 year incarceration, the General Assembly unanimously voted to compensate James Tillman a sum of \$5 million. The Advisory Commission on Wrongful Convictions will also study the best procedures and methods to compensate any others who have been wrongfully convicted and incarcerated. (SA07-5 & SA 07-8)



## Transportation

### TRANSPORTATION DOLLARS TO BENEFIT NEW LONDON

- Southeast Connecticut intermodal Transportation Center study, \$750,000 in FY08
- Increased Shoreline East subsidies by \$5.7 million in FY09 to accelerate expanded service including to New London (monies could also be used as possible subsidies to Amtrak trains for Shoreline East riders if this becomes the best workable option)
- Provides \$3 million for the Southeast Transit System (but this \$3 million is a match and will only be provided if \$3 million is provided from municipalities/private business)



### OTHER TRANSPORTATION MONEY INCREASES WITH STATEWIDE BENEFITS

- No increase in bus fares as originally proposed; bus fares will remain at \$1.25 (Restored the Governor's reduction in bus operation funds of \$4.3 million in FY08 and \$6.5 million in FY09)
- Fully funded the Demand Response/Dial-A-Ride Matching Grant program for the next two years (\$5 million in each year - used surplus money)
- Increased bus operations by \$5 million in FY09 for expanded transit services

## Budget

### BONDING MONEY FOR NEW LONDON

- New London County 4H Foundation, Inc. 4H Club, Franklin - renovations, \$250,000
- Cross Sound Ferry, Inc. and Thames Shipyard Repair, New London Dredging and facility renovations, \$250,000
- Community Health Center, Inc. New London facility – renovations and improvements, \$1,000,000
- New London Alliance for Living, Inc. – remediate asbestos and replace siding on building, \$100,000
- Reconstruction and improvements to the warehouse and State Pier in New London, including site and ferry slip improvements, \$1,400,000 in FY 08, \$300,000 in FY 09
- \$1,350,000 for repairs to Ocean Beach Park
- \$100,000 for the Homeless Hospitality Center

